

Serial No. 10/796,216

*Please amend the Abstract to read as follows:*

An occupant restraint mechanism is disposed between a rigid member and an instrument panel of an automotive vehicle ~~is provided~~. The occupant restraint mechanism includes first and second brackets each extending between proximal ends fixedly secured to the rigid member and distal ends coupled to the instrument panel. One of the first and second brackets has at least one notch formed therein. The notch has a predetermined size to allow a predetermined amount of deformation of the first and second brackets during contact of an occupant with the instrument panel during a sudden deceleration of the vehicle.